



Freedom Isn't Free

July 4, 2021 Message Notes
HOSEA 8:7; 1 PETER 2:16-17

Freedom isn't free. It costs something to have it. It costs something to keep it. And when you lose it, it costs something to get it back. In Hosea's story we see how human freedom gets hijacked by sin, and how God sets in motion His plan of redemption to restore freedom and set right what sin makes wrong.

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NOTES

Freedom isn't free. It costs something to have it. It costs something to keep it. And when you lose it, it costs something to get it back.

The United States began with the Declaration of Independence – freedom.

The Bible is a story about freedom - human beings made in the image of the most free being of all, Almighty God.

Freedom rightly used comes to life with even more freedom and life. Freedom wrongly used enslaves and kills.

In Hosea's story we see how human freedom gets hijacked by sin and how God sets in motion His plan of redemption to restore freedom and set right what sin makes wrong.

In the New Testament, God comes in Christ Jesus to deliver His people into spiritual freedom and establish the kingdom of heaven.

“The Spirit of the Lord is upon me (Jesus)... to proclaim freedom for the prisoners, to release the oppressed...to proclaim the year of the Lord's favor.”

LUKE 4:18

“The truth will set you free.”

JOHN 8:32

“Where the Spirit of the Lord is there is liberty.”

2 CORINTHIANS 3:17

“It is for freedom Christ has set us free.”

GALATIANS 5:1

“I desire mercy (love from the heart), not sacrifice (external religion) ...” – Hosea 6:6, Matthew 9:13

How was freedom abused?

- Self-righteous hypocrisy and legalism
- Self-indulgent lust and license

“I have seen a horrible thing in Israel: there Ephraim is giving to prostitution, Israel is defiled.”

HOSEA 6:10



Throwing away rules and guidelines doesn't bring freedom. Licentiousness is a trap into another kind of slavery – addiction.

When you take the bait, that which looks like the real thing, moves like the real thing, promises to satisfy like the real thing... **it isn't real.** It bites back trying to consume you and take you captive.

“The thief comes to steal, kill and destroy.”

JOHN 10:10

“The chains of habit are too weak to be felt until they are too strong to be broken.” –

Anonymous

“A man is a slave to whatever masters him.”

2 PETER 2:19

God loves us, but some of our choices are hurting and killing us.

“See to it that no one takes you captive through hollow and deceptive philosophy, which depends on human tradition and the elemental spiritual forces of this world rather than on Christ.”

COLOSSIANS 2:8

Bad ideas will cloud your thinking and control your mind. Bad habits can stifle your life and deaden your relationship with God.

How can you know you're using freedom right? It brings more freedom and life.

How can you tell you're not? You reap captivity and death.

“They sow the wind (abuse of freedom) and reap the whirlwind (loss of freedom).”

HOSEA 8:7

It's the truth Israel needed then. It's one our nation needs today.

Freedom isn't free. It costs something to have it. It costs something to keep it. And when you lose it, it costs something to get it back.

Laws of Harvest:

- You reap what you sow: good choices or bad choices.
- You reap later than you sow: some choices take time to mature.
- You reap more than you sow: the consequences are greater.

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Spiritual freedom through Christ brings freedom from guilt and the penalty of sin and freedom from captivity and slavery to sin.

“Live as free people, but don’t use your freedom as a cover up for evil; live as God’s servants.”
1 PETER 2:16-17

“You make known to me the path of life; you will fill me with joy in your presence, with eternal pleasures at your right hand.”
PSALM 16:11

With God: Invite God to fire up your heart with love by faith. Find your identity in God’s salvation family.

With Others: Invest seeds of daily faithfulness in your relationships that will bring you into a life harvest of fruitfulness in your marriage, family and friendships.

With Church: Invoke God’s resources with your spiritual family. Come to church, get in a group, take steps toward freedom and get unstuck.

Why does freedom exist? So we can do the will of God and grow to our full redemptive potential as divine image bearers in Christ.

We use freedom to move into more freedom by staying in step with God.

Freedom, as depicted on the Statue of Liberty, is not standing still, but moving from our chains.

“America the Beautiful”

by Katharine Lee Bates and Samuel A. Ward

America! America!
God mend thine every flaw,
Confirm thy soul in self-control,
Thy liberty in law!

America! America!
May God thy gold refine,
Till all success be nobleness,
And every gain divine!

America! America!
God shed His grace on thee
And crown thy good with brotherhood



From sea to shining sea!

True freedom isn't casting off restraint and rebelling against authority. **True freedom is choosing your identity in God and seeking God's grace in building a better world.**

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